



# Maricopa County

## 2014 Legislative Priorities

### **Budget Priorities**

Maricopa County seeks to protect county taxpayers and the county's fiscal stability.

- Restore state funding for the Sexually Violent Persons program  
(\$4 million to Maricopa County)
- Restore the County Assistance Fund  
(\$250,000 to Maricopa County)
- End HURF diversions to the Department of Public Safety  
(\$8.5 million to Maricopa County)

### **Improvements to statutes governing the Medical Examiner's Office**

*Immunity:* Amend ARS 11-597 (H) to include "cause and manner of death determination" in the exemptions from liability of medical examiners. ARS 11-594 statutorily requires the Medical Examiner to certify the cause and manner of death.

*Photo Exemption:* Eliminate mandatory public disclosure of autopsy photos and allow judicial review for disclosure requests.

### **Adjustments to the payment relationships between Maricopa County and MIHS**

Amend ARS 48-5571 to clarify that the County shall pay for services provided by MIHS at the AHCCCS rate. Current statute requires an annual \$5 million dollar payment regardless of services provided.

### **Regulation of golf cart use on roadways**

Clarify where golf carts can legally drive and how vehicles should pass golf carts in age restricted communities.

### **Roadway Annexation Simplification**

Amend ARS 9-471, regarding municipal authority to annex county roadways. Current law restricts municipalities' ability to annex roadways within their MPA if unincorporated land abuts both sides of the roadway. The County is working with the Cities, Towns and the League this legislation.

### **Changes to make Animal Care & Control more efficient and client-friendly**

Make various changes in Title 11 regarding Board and ACC functions, including:

- Amend ARS 11-1008 to allow for the licensing of dogs that are medically unable to be vaccinated for rabies. It also reduces the penalty for non-compliance from a class 2 misdemeanor to a civil infraction.
- Amend ARS 11-1010 to clarify the information presented for licensing a dog. It also reduces the penalty for non-compliance from a class 2 misdemeanor to a civil infraction.
- Amend ARS 11-1014 to allow the quarantining of animals, if proper facilities exist, at the owner's home, or, if the dog is a K-9, at the local Police Department. Current law requires the County ACC to take custody and quarantine the animal.

### **Clean-up of county island fire protection statutes**

Eliminate ARS 11-251.12. The language was added to statute at the request of Maricopa County in 2004 and amended in 2006 and 2007 to deal with the departure of Rural Metro fire protection services from county island residents in the Chandler and Gilbert area. Since that time, county island fire districts have been created and residents receive service from the surrounding municipalities. The language is no longer necessary to assure residents receive fire protection.